

## TAKE AN ACTIVE ROLE

Rodents and other pests are common problems in urban environments. Food service establishments (FSEs) are especially vulnerable because they provide a continuous source of food and shelter.

Do not let your FSE become an inviting home for rodents and other pests. Establish an integrated pest management (IPM) strategy to help you prevent rodent activity.



## QUESTIONS?

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BEST PRACTICES FOR  
**PEST PROOFING**  
FOOD SERVICE  
ESTABLISHMENTS

## CLEAN PESTS OUT!

Food, clutter, grease stains and odors can attract rodents and other pests. Inspect kitchens, storage rooms and garbage areas daily to make sure they are kept clean.

## INSIDE YOUR ESTABLISHMENT

- Keep kitchen & food storage areas free of waste
- Use garbage containers with tight-fitting lids
- Discard unused food and food packaging, unused paper bags, cardboard boxes and bottles
- Inspect deliveries for evidence of pests. Don't accept any deliveries with evidence present

## OUTSIDE YOUR ESTABLISHMENT

- Replace dumpsters and trash bins with gnaw marks or other holes
- Wash all garbage areas regularly with soap and water or sanitizer prepared to manufacturer specifications
- Remove standing water

## MONITORING AND PREVENTION

Routine monitoring and ongoing prevention is your first line of defense. Develop a written pest-monitoring plan to help staff stay ahead of any rodent problems and improve communication. Make a written description of monitoring devices, their locations, and a daily check-list to help staff identify problem areas and report activity.

### IDENTIFY ACTIVITY

- Rodent droppings
- Gnaw Marks
- Holes in FSE walls
- Rub or smudge Marks

Remember, contact your pest management professional if you observe signs of rodent activity in your establishment! We encourage you to discuss integrative pest management and environmentally friendly treatment options. If you're unsure where to start, call the Health Department!

## STARVE PESTS OUT!

Rodents and other pests need food and water to live. To starve them out:

- Keep vegetables and grains in pest-resistant containers with tight-fitting lids
- Clean up and discard any spilled food in heavy-duty plastic bags. Secure tightly to avoid leaks
- Regularly clean your trash receptacles and area around your dumpster

## SEAL PESTS OUT!

Keep rodents and other pests out by sealing all holes and cracks in your FSE. Use screens on open windows and doors, and door sweeps on the bottom of doors. Remember, a mouse can get through a hole the size of a dime.

Don't forget to check for gaps around pipes, behind refrigerators and in your hood vent. Fill the holes with steel wool and hold in place using caulk or another appropriate sealant.